

FATALITY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD
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AFZF-SAFE

28 FEB 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Traffic Fatality -- Fatality Memo 06-06

1. The Phantom Corps recently suffered another privately owned vehicle (POV) fatal accident on the evening of 12 February. The Soldier was driving his "High Performance Street Machine" on a secondary road just outside of the Austin area when his car struck the curb. He attempted to right the vehicle forcing it to veer left across the road and into the center median, impacting a tree. The impact ripped the vehicle apart and the Soldier was ejected from his vehicle. While this accident is still under investigation, initial assessments indicate speed as the causative factor.
2. This Fiscal Year (FY) alone, the Corps has already lost eight Soldiers to POV accidents, two more than the same time period for FY05. The contributing factors in these accidents were: fatigue, excessive speed, alcohol, and aggressive driving. With today's auto manufacturers producing more efficient and faster vehicles directly from the factory to the showroom, our Soldiers can very easily feel the thrill of speed and the agony of disaster on our roadways. Public streets are not the place for Soldiers to display the performance limits of their vehicles.
3. Commanders and leaders are encouraged to be actively engaged in the development of their unit POV accident prevention programs. The Combat Readiness Center (CRC) has numerous resources available to assist leaders in their efforts to reduce accidents on and off duty. They can be found at: <https://crc.army.mil/home/>. Use your installation and unit safety professionals as they are a great resource of information and experience. Ensure that all Soldiers attend vehicle accident avoidance training. Most units and installations offer classroom instruction and points of contact for outside agencies that will come and talk to Soldiers on various subjects.
4. As warfighters our focus is on the Global War on Terrorism, but we are also challenged with home station accident prevention. Commanders must be innovative, committed, and out front, so they can make a difference in protecting our Soldiers and family members. The standards are clearly defined and the alternative is unacceptable.

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THOMAS F. METZ
Lieutenant General, USA
Commanding

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